

Japan REPORTS

The Consulate-General of Japan in Sydney's
Quarterly Newsletter

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His Majesty the Emperor's Birthday: Dinner with the Governor of New South Wales

On 23 February, to celebrate His Majesty the Emperor's 61st birthday, Consul-General Kiya Masahiko received Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC, Governor of New South Wales, and Mr Dennis Wilson for dinner at the Consul-General's residence. Ideas and opinions were exchanged on ways to further deepen the relationship between Australia and Japan.



At the start of the dinner, a recorded performance of the Australian and Japanese national anthems sung by students from the Sydney Japanese International School (SJIS) was played. In addition, Consul-General Kiya presented and explained a message written for the occasion of His Majesty the Emperor's 61st birthday.

Consul-General Kiya conveyed his view to the Governor that the local Japanese community would continue to enrich Australia, which values multiculturalism, and work as a bridge for the development of our two countries. Both the Consul-General and the Governor shared an understanding that Australia and Japan, as "Special Strategic Partners", are further deepening their cooperation on all fronts of political, economic and cultural relations, including global challenges such as COVID-19 and natural disasters.

The Premier of NSW and the Chief Minister of the NT kindly sent messages upon the occasion of His Majesty the Emperor's Birthday, and they can be found, together with the Consul-General's message and the video of the SJIS students' performance, at:
www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/emperors_birthday.html

Consul-General Kiya visits Darwin

On 19 February, on the occasion of the commemoration of the Bombing of Darwin in the Northern Territory, Consul-General Kiya Masahiko accompanied Ambassador Yamagami Shingo to attend official services held in the city. It was the Ambassador's first official visit to Darwin.

During his time in the NT capital, Consul-General Kiya visited several places and people, and in issue #35 of his newsletter, he reports on the visit. He noted:

Japan and Darwin, and moreover, Japan and the Northern Territory, are deeply connected through the three aspects of history, business and security, and these are still developing. When it comes to each of these aspects, it is important that we are thankful for the strong foundations built by people who came before us, as we accumulate new initiatives for the future.

Darwin and Japan: the Ties of History, Business and Security
www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/document/CGKiya_35newsE.pdf



Laying a wreath at the Darwin Cenotaph at the commemorative service for the Bombing of Darwin on 19 February—it was the second time the Consul-General attended the commemoration.

UNSW Professor Martin Green awarded the Japan Prize



On 29 January, Professor Martin Green from the University of New South Wales (UNSW) in Sydney was named a 2021 Japan Prize Laureate in the fields of “Resources, Energy, Environment, Social Infrastructure” for the development of high-efficiency silicon photovoltaic devices. There were two other 2021 Laureates who were jointly awarded in the fields of Medical Science and Medicinal Science.

Professor Green pioneered the development of high-efficiency silicon photovoltaic devices and contributed significantly to the realisation of solar power that is cheaper than thermal power. Improved energy conversion efficiency reduced the costs of manufacturing solar photovoltaic devices and this has in turn enabled the construction of large-scale solar power plants.

He has worked in this field since the 1970s, making a series of inventions and achieving efficiency records. In 1999, he achieved 24.7% efficiency (25.0% by recalibration in 2008) with his Passivated Emitter and Rear Cell (PERC) solar cells. This PERC structure now dominates the photovoltaic device market. (Please see the illustrated media release for further explanation). Far more than just a name, Professor Green has made an enormous contribution to green or renewable energy technology, and as the citation for the award reads, **his achievements are most eminently deserving of the 2021 Japan Prize** in the fields of Resources, Energy, Environment, Social Infrastructure.

What is the Japan Prize?

Often referred to as Japan’s Nobel Prize, the Japan Prize is awarded annually to scientists and engineers from around the world who have made a significant contribution to the advancement of science and technology, thereby furthering the cause of peace and prosperity of humankind. Each year, two fields of scientific endeavour are honoured.

Supported by many private donations, the Prize was established with Cabinet endorsement in 1983. The motivation behind the Prize’s creation was the Government of Japan’s desire to contribute to the development of science and technology worldwide by establishing a prestigious international award.

Learn more about Professor Green’s development of PERC cells in this illustrated media release by The Japan Prize Foundation:

www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/document/english/PR_2021_Japan_Prize_E.pdf

Japan-Australia-India-US Leaders’ Conference

Late on 12 March from 10.30pm JST (12.30am 13 March, Sydney time), the first ever Japan-Australia-India-US Leaders’ Conference was held by video.

The so-called Quad meeting between Mr SUGA Yoshihide, Prime Minister of Japan, the Hon. Scott Morrison, MP, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia, HE Mr Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, and the Honorable Joseph R. Biden Jr, President of the United States of America, lasted for approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes.

The conference was called for and hosted by the US, and after the summit, a Joint Statement and Fact Sheet were released.

The four leaders concurred to hold an in-person summit by the end of this year.

The four leaders also published a joint opinion piece entitled “Our four nations are committed to a free, open, secure and prosperous Indo-Pacific region” in *The Washington Post*:

www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2021/03/13/biden-modi-morrison-suga-quad-nations-indo-pacific/

Learn more about the Quad meeting and find the related documents at:

www.mofa.go.jp/fp/nsp/page1e_000310.html



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10 years since the Great East Japan Earthquake

Remembering 3.11 ~ Thanking Australian friends



Consul-General Kiya was among the many who gathered in Sydney at the Rainbow Project commemoration to remember the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake and to thank Australians for their support over the decade since the disaster.

In his opening speech, the Consul-General expressed his profound gratitude to the people of NSW and Australia, and he noted that there has been continuing exchange between Japan and Australia born out of heartfelt efforts to assist friends in a time of need.

The Consul-General said a wonderful example of this exchange was Rainbow Project's homestay program that brought young people from Fukushima to Sydney, and he thanked Rainbow Project and its supporters for everything they have done over the last 10 years.

He also conveyed Japan's determination to share what it has learnt from the disaster and contribute to disaster management. Noting Japan's assistance to operations during the Black Summer bushfires in Australia, he explained that in a spirit of friendship, together Australia and



Japan can contribute much to disaster management in the Indo-Pacific and around the world.

The week after the 11 March commemoration, the Consul-General hosted a dinner at his official residence to convey the gratitude of Japan for the various support and exchange activities in response to the disaster. Among the honoured guests pictured above was The Hon. David Elliott, NSW Minister for Police and Emergency Services [centre].



Beyond Sydney—commemoration in Bathurst

This year, the sister city relationship between Bathurst in NSW and Ohkuma in Fukushima celebrated its 30th anniversary. Ten years ago, Ohkuma Town had to be evacuated after the tsunami devastated the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station which is located in Ohkuma.

Despite this, the exchange between people of Bathurst and Ohkuma has continued to this day—a truly inspirational example of friendship.

Also on 11 March, a tree-planting ceremony in honour of the Ohkuma 30th Sister City and 10th Earthquake Anniversary was held by Bathurst Regional Council. Deputy Consul-General Tanaka Noriko participated in the ceremony representing the Consul-General. Afterwards, she visited the Bathurst Regional Council office and met with the Mayor and Councillors.

On 24 March, Consul-General Kiya took the opportunity to visit Bathurst for himself and he was warmly received by former and current mayors as well as long-term Bathurst resident Ms Fudeko Reekie, a key player in facilitating communication between these inspiring sister cities.



The Consul-General reported on the 3.11 commemorations, including his visit to Bathurst, in issue #37 of his newsletter:

Japan-Australia Exchange - Coming together for areas affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake

www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/document/CGKiya_37newsE.pdf

Celebrating the contributions of NSW residents



On 16 February, **Mr Matsunaga Yoshiaki** received the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays from Consul General Kiya Masahiko.

Mr Matsunaga was among the 2020 Spring Imperial Decorations announced in April 2020; the actual conferment ceremony was delayed due to COVID-19. At long last, there was the opportunity for this important achievement to be acknowledged at the official residence of the Consul-General. Mr Matsunaga's family was present to mark the happy occasion with him.

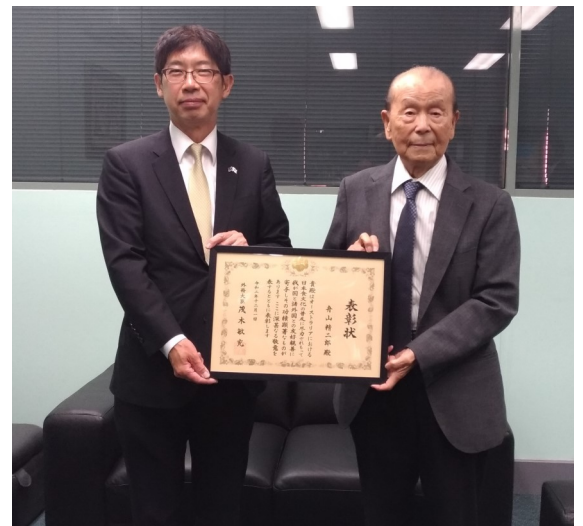
Mr Matsunaga received the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays **in recognition of his services to the promotion of Japanese culture.**

Since becoming President of the Chado Urasenke Tankoukai Sydney Association in 2007, he has led the Association as it has provided a wide range of opportunities for people in Sydney and around Australia to experience *chado* (Japanese tea ceremony) and has in this way contributed greatly to the promotion of Japanese culture as well as the promotion of goodwill and friendship between Japan and Australia.

On 10 March, Consul-General Kiya visited the Jun Pacific Office and presented the proprietor, **Mr Funayama Seijiro**, the Foreign Minister's Commendation award.

Mr Funayama received the Foreign Minister's Commendation in **recognition of his services to the promotion of Japanese food culture in Australia.**

As a Japanese wholesaler, Mr Funayama has contributed to the distribution of Japanese food products for more than 40 years, through the management of Jun Pacific Corporation and the Japanese food store "Tokyo Mart", laying the foundations of the Japanese food market throughout Australia by maintaining continued sales, and by efforts such as promoting understanding of Japanese food and food products.



Photos of the Consul-General's visits and Consulate events are regularly uploaded to our website and Facebook.

Facebook: CGJSYD www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp

Consul-General Kiya's official Twitter account—www.twitter.com/CGJapanSydney

Consul-General Kiya's newsletter

Consul-General Kiya writes a regular online newsletter. The purpose of the e-newsletter is to introduce various activities he engages in as Consul-General and to share some of his thoughts and feelings as he goes about his duties.

He hopes that through these newsletters more people will learn about the multi-faceted connections between Australia and Japan. Since the last issue, he has written on the following topics:

- No.37 **Japan-Australia Exchange - Coming together for areas affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake** (March 26, 2021)
- No.36 **Australia-Japan school exchange: "Tomodachi 2021" program leads to further expansion** (March 19, 2021)
- No.35 **Darwin and Japan: the Ties of History, Business and Security** (March 4, 2020)
- No.34 **Consular work during COVID-19** (February 18, 2020)

All previous issues are available online: www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/about_consul_generals_newsletter.html

Also available in the Japanese-language original: www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/about_consul_generals_newsletter.html

A “Taste of Japan” in Sydney

On 4 March, the Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO) Sydney Office, in cooperation with Japan Airlines (JAL) and All Nippon Airways (ANA), held an event called “Taste of Japan” to showcase Japanese cuisine and culture. Almost 40 representatives from the media industry attended the event.

In his opening remarks, Consul-General Kiya Masahiko said that Japan would be a great tourist and cultural destination for more Australians after the pandemic. He also expressed his hope that the event would give participants an opportunity to find their own Japan and share it with their readers and followers.



Not only was there great food to sample...



... there were also cultural experiences to be had, including a zen garden workshop and a tanzaku wishing tree.

An online taste of Japan

Food is always listed as one of the experiences Australian visitors most look forward to when visiting Japan. While we can't travel internationally at the moment, it is still possible to enjoy Japanese food at the one of the many restaurants here in Sydney, and there are more and more Japanese food products on sale that you can try and create your own Japanese meal or Japan-inspired dish at home. There are some great online resources including the [NHK World-Japan food video series Dining with the Chef](http://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/ondemand/program/video/dwc/) www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/ondemand/program/video/dwc/, viewable as full shows or as bite-sized clips.

But don't give up on dreams to eat your way around Japan when international travel restarts! Planning can be half the fun, particularly when you have mouth-watering resources such as JNTO's excellent "Japanese Cuisine" webpage www.japan.travel/en/au/experience/cuisine/. Here you'll find:

10 dishes you shouldn't leave Japan without trying

The cheapest and most expensive gourmet foods you'll find in Japan

The art of yoshoku: Six popular western dishes reinvented in Japan

Taste of Japan: 6 Places Beyond Tokyo

Japanese Food Etiquette Guide (very handy!)

Six Japanese foods to try for the adventurous

A chef's guide to Tokyo and beyond

Seven must-try food experiences in Japan

The price is right: Japan's best budget and blow-out eats

Eat like a locavore: An insider's guide to Japan's food scene

Regional Specialties

A Vegetarian and Vegan Guide to Japan

Sake 101—The Ultimate Guide to Japanese Sake



YUM!



As the Torch Relay traverses Japan ahead of the Tokyo Olympics Games, the Australian Olympic Connect Tomodachi 2021 is promoting ties between youth in Australia and Japan, fostering a safe cultural learning environment and providing a unique insight into each country's customs, lifestyle and activities.

Based on the highly successful Tomodachi 2020 pilot program which connected more than 1,500 students at 40 schools in Japan and Australia (24 August and 31 October 2020), the Australian Olympic Committee decided to increase the number of participating schools in the main program ten-fold and is aiming to include 400 schools (200 Japanese schools and 200 Australian schools).

Using various online tools, individual schools will engage in a variety of exchange activities while receiving advice from the AOC.

The success of the pilot program bodes well for the main program. After reviewing the responses to questionnaires answered by all schools and students that took part in the pilot program, the organisers were surprised by just how positive the feedback was – all schools that took part in the Tomodachi 2020 pilot program wanted to take part in the main Tomodachi 2021 program!

The main program begins in April and runs until 23 July, the day the Tokyo Olympics begin. Visit the AOC website to learn more.

www.olympics.com.au/community-and-schools/australian-olympic-connect-2020/



One of the world's longest running and most successful exchange programs is the Government of Japan's Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme.

JET began back in 1987, and going through the archives, we found the cover article about the very first group of JET participants leaving from NSW to take up their positions as Assistant Language Teachers (ALTs) or as Coordinators for International Relations (CIRs).

JET continues to promote internationalisation at the local level in Japan and to contribute to language education—and it's overcoming the difficulties of COVID-19 to send more young Australians to take up this unique opportunity.

Want to learn more about living and working in Japan?

www.jetprogramme.org/en/



JAPAN-AUST. STD SERVICE BY 1973?

Within two years automatic telephone calls should be possible between Australia and Japan.

KDD (Kokusai Denhin Kaisha Co.) has at any rate indicated that it is in the process of meeting this in its projects. Japanese networks which are being expanded at the rate of 30 per cent a year.

In the financial year ended on March 31, reports KDD, one of every 50 people in Japan made or received international calls.

Calls from Manhattan area of New York City switching to automatic dialing last January. This three-week trial was conducted from Frankfurt and Munich followed.

Under the KDD program, in the financial year beginning April 1, 1973, Australia is on the list for expansion of the automatic dialing system (with Britain, Hong Kong, the Republic of Korea and Hawaii).

Other new services to be put to practical use in 1972:

- Transmission between two coverage points via the KDD computer (which makes it possible to dispatch the same message to several areas simultaneously).
- Using new circuits and terminal equipment, high speed telex (20 times the present 60 words a minute) and an international facsimile service transmitting color television pictures.

When the ABC television network of four satellites came into use and for these KDD uses two ground stations, Australia is linked through the satellite through the ground station at Ibaraki, near Tokyo.

And already interest in it has its own.

New facilities are being installed at the Ibaraki ground station in the anticipation of the launching of a series of seven Intelsat IV satellites.

FIRST SATELLITE NOW IN ORBIT

JAPAN last month put its first satellite into orbit, and received official recognition later as the fourth nation to do so with its own technology.

The three others are the U.S.A., Soviet Union and France.

Scene of the blast-off was the Kosmos Space Centre on Okinawa Island, 1,000 miles from the tip of Kyushu, southernmost of Japan's four main islands.

Scientists at the centre (then known as Okiwa) in the planned COSPAR (Committee for Space Research) station as 1970-1971, Tokyo Institute of Space and Astronautical Science.

ten years

conference held after the launch of the satellite. Tamiya Noboru, director of the centre, said that the satellite, carried into its orbit by the rocket, was expected to be used when they began to use the satellite for the television system.

These are going to be larger than the Intelsat III satellites, and capable of carrying ten times as many circuits as the Intelsat III satellites.

KDD, as part of its preparations for the sharp increase in world communication which will accompany the growth of Intelsat IV traffic, has planned construction in the Simulata area of Tokyo what it calls the New International Communications Centre.

This is a huge complex which describes as indispensable to the growth in both the traffic and the sophistication of international telecommunication in the years just ahead.

INAUGURATION CEREMONY — COWRA JAPANESE GARDEN AND CULTURE CENTRE

Mr. Yoshio Ito, Mayor of Cowra, NSW, was present at the inauguration ceremony for the Cowra Japanese Garden and Culture Centre.

The Japanese Gardens of Bellevue Hill, Cowra, NSW, was inaugurated on the 12th of November, 1975.

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ORIENT'S HIGHEST BRIDGE

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We hope you'll join us online!

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JAPAN WEEK '85

CULTURAL EXCHANGE

SEPTEMBER 19th—25th

JAPAN REPORTS

AUSTRALIA-JAPAN RELATIONS PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION AND SYMPOSIUM

Volume 41 No. 1 Summer 2006

Japan Reports

The official opening of the 2006 Australia-Japan Year of Exchange

Volume 41 No. 1 Summer 2006

Japan Reports

Japan Exchange and Teaching Program

Volume 44 No. 2 Winter 2009

Japan Reports

The 27th Essay Contest Awards Ceremony

Volume 45 No. 1 Autumn 2010

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